

**LOWER COLORADO REGION
FY 2001
OVERVIEW**

FY 2000 Enacted	FY 2001 REQUEST FOR WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES					
	Water & Energy	Land Management	Fish & Wildlife	Facility Operations	Facility Maintenance	Total Program
\$114,884,000	\$70,895,000	\$760,000	\$10,975,000	\$11,001,000	\$23,526,000	\$117,157,000

The Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources budget request for the Lower Colorado Region is \$117,157,000, an increase of \$2,273,000 from FY 2000. The Lower Colorado Region encompasses all of the lands drained by rivers flowing into the Pacific Ocean along the coast of California south of the Tehachapi mountains and all of the lands drained by the Colorado River south of Lee's Ferry, Arizona. This includes most of Arizona, the western portion of central New Mexico, the southwestern corner of Utah, southern Nevada, and southern California. With management responsibility for the Lower Division of the Colorado River, the Lower Colorado Region encounters many of the controversies and pressures that characterize water resources management throughout the arid southwestern United States. These issues include increasing water requirements for urban use, Indian trust needs, and endangered species. Water for urban uses is a major issue due to rapid growth in the Las Vegas, Phoenix, and southern California metropolitan areas. Reclamation facilities in the region deliver over 9 million acre-feet of water annually to customers for irrigation, municipal and industrial, other uses, and to meet the United States' treaty obligations to Mexico. Reclamation facilities also provide flood control along the Colorado River benefitting Nevada, California, Arizona, and Mexico.

Water and Energy Management and Development - Funding for the Central Arizona Project will support our siphon claim litigation, continue construction of Indian Distribution Systems, work at New Waddell and Roosevelt Dams, and the projectwide cultural resources permanent repository. Construction of the Gila River Indian Community distribution system is the largest user of Central Arizona Project funds and will continue for the next 10 to 15 years. The major increase in the Central Arizona Project will fund the construction work for the Gila River Indian Community distribution system.

The Lower Colorado River Operations Program request provides for all work necessary to carry out the Secretary's direct statutory and contractual responsibilities as watermaster on the lower Colorado River.

The Colorado River Front Work and Levee System work continues the Gila River Development and the Yuma Valley drainage programs and begins work on design of an alignment structure to protect the existing bankline during high releases from upstream dams.

Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act activities include a water resource inventory, effluent utilization program, and construction of the San Xavier Existing Farm rehabilitation.

The funding of seven water reclamation and reuse programs in southern California continues to be a high priority. Work on the Los Angeles Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Project will be completed. All of these projects will help California reduce its use of Colorado River water to its allocation of 4.4 million

acre-feet.

The four Investigation Programs contain funding for 13 studies. One study, Owens Valley Paiute Reservations, will be completed. The Traditional Indian Water Techniques, Solar / Hydro Integration, Hopi Water Management Study, Gila River Sediment, and White Mountain Apache Water Resource Management are the 5 studies beginning in fiscal year 2001.

Three specific planning programs, the Navajo Sandstone Aquifer Recharge Study, Tucson Area Water Reclamation Study, and the Colorado River Water Quality Improvement Program will continue. The Colorado River Water Quality Improvement Program continues to investigate the salinity causes in our region and is identifying sources of pollution entering the Colorado River from the Las Vegas Wash.

The Lake Mead / Las Vegas Wash program will continue with efforts concentrating on erosion control structures and development of pilot wetlands.

The Salton Sea Project will continue with the studies and activities resulting from recommendations contained in the January 2000 report to Congress.

Land Management and Development - The Central Arizona Project request provides for development of trails along the aqueduct and for recreational enhancement at New Waddell Dam and Reservoir.

Fish and Wildlife Management and Development - Additional environmental initiatives will be funded by the Endangered Species Conservation and Recovery Project. The terrestrial and aquatic habitat of threatened and endangered species will be enhanced by construction and improvement of habitat, and information and education programs.

The request for the Lower Colorado River Operations Program will meet the current date-certain mitigation requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Service's interim biological opinion on Reclamation's lower Colorado River operations. Development of a long-term multi-species conservation program to provide a permanent means to avoid a jeopardy opinion on Reclamation's river operations also continues.

Facility Operations - This request continues delivery of water to the Ak Chin Indian Community under the Ak Chin Water Rights Settlement Act. Under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program - Title I, project facilities are being operated to assure that water delivered to Mexico continues to meet salinity requirements defined by Minute 242 of the Mexican Treaty. Funding for the Yuma Area Projects will continue necessary river management, well inventory, flood and drainage control, operation of fish and wildlife facilities along the river, and project land use management.

Facility Maintenance and Rehabilitation - The Parker-Davis Project maintenance costs, including unit rewinds and other major equipment replacements, will be funded by water and power users. Funding for Yuma Area Projects meets the ongoing infrastructure maintenance programs and continues dredging efforts resulting from the sediment deposited into the Colorado River channel during high flows which occurred in the 1990s. Under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, Title I, the Yuma Desalting Plant continues in ready reserve. Replacement of well field equipment in the Protective and Regulatory Pumping Unit and Yuma Desalting Plant modifications to correct design problems continues. A long-term program to bank water to offset the need to recover bypassed water once the interim period

ends will begin.

Major Accomplishments - Accomplishments in FY 1999 include completion of the offstream storage rule for Colorado River water and execution of the long-term Parker-Davis Project funding agreements.